Combat

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LEFTIST TRANSLATOR DOCTORED SVETLANA'S BOOK: Svetlana Alliluyeva Peters, daughter of Josef Stalin, is having her publisher withdraw the French translation of her most recent book, Only One Year, charging that the translator took too many liberties with it. She charges some of her criticisms of the Soviet Union and Communism were toned down, and her bountiful praise of the United States altered or softened. Mr. Eugene Lyons, an expert on Soviet Affairs (and who reads both Russian and French), tells COMBAT that there is not the slightest doubt that the translator, identified as Nadiejda Gneditz, took extreme liberties in translating, leaving out entire passages (ranging from a few lines to a page or more), and inserting words and ideas not in the original. Mr. Lyons says that Gneditz doubtless "despises religion and downgrades what to her (Svetlana) is the heart of her experience -- her baptism and return to religion" and that the translator "dislikes America and waters down Svetlana's praise of the U.S. and its freedoms... However, Mr. Lyons says it was his opinion that Svetlana's attacks on Stalin, Lenin and the Soviet system came through basically accurate. COMBAT reveals that the Gneditz name is a nom-de-plume of a husband-wife translation team of Michel Cournot and Nella Vasilievna. Cournot is a leftist film critic and a friend of the Mao-oriented filmmaker, Jean Luc Godard.